

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /065 W

----- 111102

R 031230Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5485

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NAIROBI 8694

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT KE

SUBJECT: KEPHAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY REOPENS; THE MUZZLE IS ON

1. KENYAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY REOPENED UNEVENTFULLY SEPT 30 FOLLOWING NINE WEEK RECESS. MOOD OF ASSEMBLY IS MARKEDLY SUBDUED ESPECIALLY WHEN COMPARED WITH TUMULTUOUS DEBATE WHICH ACCOMPANIED FLOOR CONSIDERATION LAST JUNE OF PARLIAMENTARY REPORT ON MURDER OF BROADLY POPULAR OPPOSITIONIST MP, J. M. KARIUKI. FIRST FOUR SESSIONS FOLLOWING RE-CONVENING OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHARACTERIZED BY LOW ATTENDANCE (HAD ACTUAL COUNT BEEN MADE ON OCT 3 THE ASSEMBLY WOULD HAVE ADJOURNED FOR LACK OF A QUORUM), ABSENCE OR SILENCE OF NORMALLY RAMBUNCTIOUS BACKBENCY ANTI-GOVERNMENT CRITICS, AND APPARENT UNWILLINGNESS OF SPEAKER TO PERMIT LESS HESITANT MP'S TO ASK POLITICALLY SENSITIVE QUESTIONS.

2. ON LAST POINT, RELIABLE PRESS SOURCE TOLD EMBOFF THAT QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED -- BUT SHELVED -- RELATING TO IMPRISONMENT OF MARK MWITHAGA, FORMER CLOSE COLLABORATOR

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OF KARIUKI (NAIROBI A-100), EMBRYONIC CAMPAIGN TO REVITALIZE

KANU, KENYA'S SOLE POLITICAL PARTY (NAIROBI 8250) AND
REPORTS THAT RESPONSIBILITY FOR POLICE HAS BEEN SHIFTED

FROM VICE PRESIDENT MOI TO THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE.

3. COMMENT: IF FIRST FOUR SESSIONS ARE ACCURATE INDICATION
OF MOOD OF PRESENT PARLIAMENT, IT WOULD APPEAR
THAT RECENT GOK EFFORTS TO SILENCE ITS CRITICS THROUGH
DISMISSAL LAST JUNE OF DISSIDENT MINISTERS, (NAIROBI 4871)
AND IMPLIED THREAT OF EXPULSION AND LOSS OF OFFICE IN
MOVES TO TIGHTEN UP PARTY DISCIPLINE HAVE BEEN EFFECTIVE.
BARRING UNFORESEEN DEVELOPMENTS, ANTI-GOVERNMENT MP'S AND
VETERAN OBSERVERS AMONG LOCAL PRESS FORECASTING
EXTREMELY DULL SESSION WITH CRITICS KEEPING LOW PROFILE
AND OTHERS STICKING TO NON-CONTROVERSIAL LOCAL ISSUES.
MARSHALL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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